

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1-5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 1, wherein said encapsulation operation in step e)~~ is of encapsulating an active substance in a biodegradable polymer, which comprises:
- a. dissolving said biodegradable polymer in an organic solvent therefor;
  - b. dispersing said active substance in the organic solution obtained in step (a), to provide a dispersion with the active substance as the inner phase thereof; and
  - c. subjecting the dispersion obtained in step (b) to an encapsulation operation with an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution as a continuous phase, performed in the absence of any surfactant, such that micro- or nanoparticles having the active substance encapsulated therein are obtained;
- wherein the biodegradable polymer is homo- or copolymers prepared from  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or cyclic dimers of  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or a combination thereof.
- 7-11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 1, wherein the active substance which is dispersed in step b)~~ of encapsulating an active substance in a biodegradable polymer, which comprises:
- a. dissolving said biodegradable polymer in an organic solvent therefor;
  - b. dispersing said active substance, which has a particle size within the range of about 0.5-20  $\mu\text{m}$ , in the organic solution obtained in step (a), to provide a dispersion with the active substance as the inner phase thereof; and
  - c. subjecting the dispersion obtained in step (b) to an encapsulation operation with an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution as a continuous phase,

performed in the absence of any surfactant, such that micro- or nanoparticles having the active substance encapsulated therein are obtained;

wherein the biodegradable polymer is homo- or copolymers prepared from  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or cyclic dimers of  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or a combination thereof.

13-42. (Canceled)

43-44. (Withdrawn)

45-47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 12, wherein the active substance which is dispersed in step b)~~ A method of encapsulating an active substance in a biodegradable polymer, which comprises:

a. dissolving said biodegradable polymer in an organic solvent therefor;

b. dispersing said active substance, which has a particle size within the range of about 0.5-10  $\mu\text{m}$ , in the organic solution obtained in step (a), to provide a dispersion with the active substance as the inner phase thereof; and

c. subjecting the dispersion obtained in step (b) to an encapsulation operation with an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution as a continuous phase, performed in the absence of any surfactant, such that micro- or nanoparticles having the active substance encapsulated therein are obtained;

wherein the biodegradable polymer is homo- or copolymers prepared from  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or cyclic dimers of  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or a combination thereof.

49. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 12, wherein the active substance which is dispersed in step b)~~ A method of encapsulating an active substance in a biodegradable polymer, which comprises:

a. dissolving said biodegradable polymer in an organic solvent therefor;

b. dispersing said active substance, which has a particle size within the range of about 0.5-3  $\mu\text{m}$ , in the organic solution obtained in step (a), to provide a

dispersion with the active substance as the inner phase thereof; and

c. subjecting the dispersion obtained in step (b) to an encapsulation operation with an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution as a continuous phase, performed in the absence of any surfactant, such that micro- or nanoparticles having the active substance encapsulated therein are obtained;

wherein the biodegradable polymer is homo- or copolymers prepared from  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or cyclic dimers of  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or a combination thereof.

50-69. (Canceled)

70. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 2, wherein the microencapsulation operation in step c) is~~ A method of encapsulating an active substance in a biodegradable polymer, which comprises:

a. dissolving said biodegradable polymer in an organic solvent therefor;

b. dispersing said active substance in the organic solution obtained in step (a), to provide a dispersion with the active substance as the inner phase thereof; and

c. subjecting the dispersion obtained in step (b) to an encapsulation operation with an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution as a continuous phase, performed in the presence of an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution having a polyethylene glycol concentration within the range of 30-55% (w/w), such that micro- or nanoparticles having the active substance encapsulated therein are obtained;

wherein the biodegradable polymer is homo- or copolymers prepared from  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or cyclic dimers of  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or a combination thereof.

71. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 2, wherein the microencapsulation operation in step c) is~~ A method of encapsulating an active substance in a biodegradable polymer, which comprises:

a. adissolving said biodegradable polymer in an organic solvent therefor;

b. dispersing said active substance in the organic solution obtained in step (a), to provide a dispersion with the active substance as the inner phase thereof; and

c. subjecting the dispersion obtained in step (b) to an encapsulation operation with an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution as a continuous phase, performed in the presence of an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution having a polyethylene glycol concentration within the range of 30-50% (w/w), such that micro- or nanoparticles having the active substance encapsulated therein are obtained;

wherein the biodegradable polymer is homo- or copolymers prepared from  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or cyclic dimers of  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids or a combination thereof.

72-76. (Canceled)